

C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Margaret Wood Hassan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 45.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 45, Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services.

Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 2, be waived.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 37, confirmation of the nomination of Colleen Lawless to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 38, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gordon P. Gallagher to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 39, Confirmation of the nomination of Jonathan James Grey to be a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea. •

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONFIRMATION OF COLLEEN R. LAWLESS

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate voted to confirm Colleen Lawless to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois in my hometown of Springfield.

Born in Joliet, IL, Judge Lawless received her bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University and her J.D. from Northern Illinois University College of Law. After graduating from law school, Judge Lawless joined the Springfield, IL, firm Londrigan, Potter & Randle P.C., where she represented plaintiffs and defendants in State and Federal courts, including the court to which she has now been nominated. In this role, she handled matters ranging from employment discrimination to medical malpractice to family law and tried four cases to verdict before a jury.

In 2019, the judges of Illinois' Seventh Judicial Circuit appointed Judge Lawless to serve as an associate circuit judge, and she is currently assigned to the domestic relations division. Since her appointment to the bench, Judge Lawless has presided over 125 domestic relations bench trials and many more proceedings implicating mental health commitments, small claims, evictions, and emergency protection orders. Notably, she has never been reversed or significantly criticized by a reviewing court.

Judge Lawless received a rating of "well qualified" from the ABA and a bipartisan vote in committee. She was also highly recommended by a judicial screening committee that Senator DUCKWORTH and I established to consider judicial candidates for the Central District of Illinois.

Judge Lawless will fill the Springfield-based seat that has been occupied over the past decade by Judge Sue Myerscough. I want to thank Judge Myerscough for her outstanding service

to the people of the central Illinois. She leaves big shoes to fill, but I am confident that Judge Lawless is more than up to the task. Given her significant trial experience and deep knowledge of the Central District, Senator DUCKWORTH and I strongly support Judge Lawless. I was glad to see her confirmed. •

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONFIRMATION OF JONATHAN JAMES CANADA GREY

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today the Senate confirmed Judge Jonathan Grey to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Born in Poplarville, MS, Judge Grey attended Morehouse College and the Georgetown University Law Center before serving as a law clerk to both Judge Damon J. Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and Judge W. Louis Sands of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. He then began his career in private practice as an associate at Seyfarth Shaw, LLC, a role in which he focused on labor and employment matters in Federal, State, and local courts, as well as before administrative agencies. As an Assistant United States Attorney for both the Southern District of Ohio and the Eastern District of Michigan, Judge Grey briefed and argued dozens of dispositive and nondispositive motions and also led several substantial investigations in cases that spanned multiple States and countries. In 2021, Judge Grey was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, where he has written opinions in approximately 40 cases.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Grey as unanimously "well qualified," and he enjoys the strong support of Senators STABENOW and PETERS. Judge Grey's experience as both a litigator and a jurist in the Eastern District of Michigan demonstrates his deep knowledge of the district to which he has been nominated to serve, and he will make an outstanding addition to the Federal bench. I was glad to see him confirmed. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF "ARKANSAS WEEK"

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of "Arkansas Week," the flagship public affairs program of Arkansas PBS.

Since its first broadcast in 1983, "Arkansas Week" has delivered consistent and reliable in-depth news and analysis of events in Little Rock and throughout our State to the Nation's Capital and beyond, as well as robust coverage of policies that impact all Arkansans.